

and so does Whiteaker Inspires City to force cup replay

Wycombe Wanderers 0
St Albans City 0

RON WHITEAKER gave such a fine display of confident, sure-handed goalkeeping that St Albans City were inspired to one of their finest—albeit defensive—performances of the season in this F.A. Cup tie on Saturday.

As a result of the confidence Whiteaker gave them, City held Wycombe to a goalless draw and have a great chance, on this showing, of winning the replay at Clarence Park, a match which was being played last night, writes Lionel Perry.

But the man City had to thank for a second bite at this considerable cherry was, in the last resort, Phil Wood.

The St Albans strong men did not exactly cry when Tony Horseman, ace Wycombe marksman, was left in front of goal five minutes from time, six yards out with only Whiteaker to pass.

But I saw several people look away . . . then look up in amazement.

For in that short space of time Wood, the "sweeper-up" in City's defence, appeared from nowhere and blocked Horseman's shot sufficiently for Whiteaker to further divert it round the post for a corner.

It was an astonishing escape and Horseman had already had the other really clear Wycombe chance of the game when he scooped the ball over the bar from close in.

City rapidly saw that Hobby Childs was limping from an aggravation of a foot injury and that Butterfield was also at reduced pace. Sensibly they set out more to contain Wycombe than to attack.

Gibbs, in particular, and the defence as a whole, tackled fiercely and quickly and although Wycombe had the best of the first half, this policy of destruction was so effective that in the second half City had really had much the better of things.

In the first half they had remained very cool under pressure but it was a Wycombe's turn to play it cool in the second half.

City struck twice in the first half when Childs, early on, put the ball just wide and Bill Ratty had a fierce drive well saved. But City, after a spirited attack to start off the

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second half, could well have scored.

Dennis Gibbs, who played really well to cut out most of the danger of Len Worley, Wycombe's right-winger, made a brave header to start off an attack that Childs could well have finished with

Early in the half Childs had been rugby-tackled by Wycombe's goalkeeper as he dashed through but an offence seconds before this, stopped any chance of a penalty. But the referee had to consult a linesman about it. Childs later limped off to be replaced by Johnny Mann. In a rare Wycombe attack, Whiteaker dived at Horseman's feet and injured his ribs. But it was Wood who really saved the day with that remarkable piece of covering near the end.

St Albans City: R. Whiteaker; M. Harman, L. Burgess, D. Lawrence, P. Wood, D. Neville, R. Childs (I. Mann), W. Ratty, J. Butterfield, D. Gibbs, W. Broomfield.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; L. Temel, C. Gale, S. Thompson, I. Rundie, J. Lailey, L. Worley, B. Baker, K. Samuels, A. Horseman, D. Thomas. Sub: V. Busby.

Referee: Mr W. South (Uxbridge).

Attendance: 2,651.